

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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DPW-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 150932Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5459

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4562

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, CH

SUBJECT: MFA SECAGEN ZAITON'S VIEWS ON CHINA AND INDOCHINA

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4537

1. SUMMARY: AT SOCIAL GATHERING EVENING OCT 12, MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL TAN SRI ZAITON IBRAHIM COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ON CURRENT STATE OF US/PRC RELATIONS, PEKING ATTITUDES ON OVERSEAS CHINESE, AND PRC INTERESTS IN INDOCHINA. FOR HIS COMMENTS ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION SEE SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. US/PRC RELATIONS: ZAITON SAW SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO PEKING AS BEGINNING OF NEW, TOUGHER BARGAINING PHASE IN US/PRC
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RELATIONS AND AVERRED THAT PEKING'S QUID PRO QUO FOR INFLUENCING

FURTHER STABILIZATION OF INDOCHINA SITUATION WOULD BE ABANDONMENT OF US TIES WITH ROC AND RAISING OF USLO TO FULL EMBASSY STATUS. HE SAID FURTHER THAT RECENT PROPAGANDA OVERTURES BY PRC TO TAIWANESE AND KUOMINTANG ADHERENTS INDICATE PEKING WISHES MOVE AGAINST ROC EARLIER THAN US ANTICIPATES, DESPITE "UNDERSTANDING" REFLECTED IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE.

3. OVERSEAS CHINESE: ZAITON BELIEVES FACTIONAL SPLITS WITHIN PRC GOVT PREVENT PEKING FROM GIVING ASSURANCES TO GOM AND OTHER SEA NATIONS ON HANDS-OFF POLICY TOWARD LOCAL OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S RECENT STATEMENTS, HE SAID THERE IS STILL FACTION IN PRC WISHING TO CLAIM ALLEGIANCE OF OVERSEAS CHINESE IN OBVIOUS CONFLICT WITH PRC DESIRE IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SEA NATIONS. HE SAID FOR TIME BEING PRC UNWILLING OR UNABLE GO MUCH BEYOND RESTATEMENT OF BANDUNG PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUT THAT GOM STILL TRYING OBTAIN MORE CONCRETE ASSURANCES.

4. GOM RELATIONS WITH PRC: DECLINING SPECULATE ON TIMING OF COMMENCEMENT FULL GOM/PRC RELATIONS, ZAITON SAID GOM STILL HOPEFUL THAT OUTSTANDING POINTS, NOTABLY PEKING ATTITUDE TOWARD MALAYSIAN CHINESE, WOULD BE RESOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS. RESOLUTION, HE SAID, NOT LIKELY TO COME IN NEXT FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS BUT LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY AGREEMENT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN EARLY 1974.

4. INDOCHINA: IN ADDITION HIS COMMENTS ON CAMBODIA (REFTEL), ZAITON PERCEIVED THAT PRC IS HAVING INCREASING DIFFICULTY INFLUENCING HANOI. HE DID NOT BELIEVE NORTH VIETNAM SUPPORT OF KHMER ROUGE IS IN LINE WITH PEKING'S WISHES, BUT THERE LITTLE PRC CAN DO TO RESTRAIN NVN. SIMILARLY, NEW SOVIET INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT SIHANOUK FURTHER DIMINISHES NVN/KHMER ROUGE/GRUNK DEPENDENCE ON CHINA, THUS ALSO DECREASING US ABILITY INFLUENCE PRC TO STABILIZE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. IT APPARENT TO HIM, FURTHERMORE, THAT NVN WILL NOT DESIST IN INDOCHINA UNTIL GVN COMPLETELY ISOLATED.

6. COMMENTS: ZAITON'S VIEWS TAKEN AT FACE VALUE REFLECT DEEPENING GOM PESSIMISM REGARDING INDOCHINA, ALTHOUGH HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT GOM FINDS SOME HOPE IN INCREASING INTERNAL STRENGTH OF THIEU GOVT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HIS REMARKS ON GOM/PRC
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RELATIONS GENERALLY CONFIRM OTHER REPORTS THAT GOM UNABLE WRING ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES ON OVERSEAS CHINESE, AMONG OTHER ISSUES, AND THAT AGREEMENT NOT LIKELY TO COME QUICKLY. LASTLY, ZAITON'S VIEW OF US/PRC DYNAMIC HAS NOT, TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARTICULATED BY ANY OTHER GOM LEADER.
CHESLAW

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